

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-7, 11, 12, 15, 19-21, 23-25, and 28 without prejudice.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

Listing of Claims:

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented): A polymer composition comprising:

a polymer, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of at least one of polyesters, epoxy resins, ABS combinations, halogenated polymers, polyethylene, polystyrene, silicones, silicone rubbers, ethyl vinyl acetate, and their copolymers; and

a synergistic flame retardant additive combination, the synergistic flame retardant additive combination comprising a nano-clay and a second filler, wherein the second filler is selected from the group consisting of at least one of aluminum trihydroxide, magnesium carbonate, magnesium hydroxide, brucite ore, hydromagnesite, Huntite, boehmite and bauxite, and wherein, during combustion of the polymer composition, a coherent char is formed.

10-15. (cancelled)

16. (Previously presented): A cable or wire coating formed from a polymer composition according to claim 9.

17. (Previously presented): A molded or extruded material coated with a polymer composition according to claim 9.

18. (Previously presented): A method of promoting char formation comprising the step of burning the polymer composition according to claim 9.

19-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously presented): The polymer composition of claim 9, wherein the polymer composition comprises polyvinyl chloride.

23-25. (Cancelled).

26. (Previously presented): A method of improving the char promoting properties of a polymer composition, comprising: combining the polymer composition and a synergistic flame retardant additive combination to form a mixture, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of at least one of polyesters, epoxy resins, ABS combinations, halogenated polymers, polyethylene, polystyrene, silicones, silicone rubbers, ethyl vinyl acetate, and their copolymers, and wherein the synergistic flame retardant comprises a nano-clay and a second filler, wherein the second filler is selected from the group consisting of at least one of aluminum trihydroxide, magnesium carbonate, magnesium hydroxide, brucite ore, hydromagnesite, Huntite, boehmite and bauxite.

27. (Previously presented): The method of claim 26, wherein the polymer composition comprises polyvinyl chloride.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (New): A polymer composition comprising:

a polymer, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of at least one of polyesters, polyethylene, polystyrene, silicones, silicone rubbers, ethyl vinyl acetate, and their copolymers; and

a synergistic flame retardant additive combination comprising a nano-clay and a second filler, wherein the second filler comprises aluminum trihydroxide, and wherein during combustion of the composition, a coherent char is formed.

30. (New): The polymer composition of claim 29, wherein the second filler further comprises a flame retardant filler, an inert filler or a combination thereof.

31. (New): The polymer composition of claim 29, wherein the second filler further comprises magnesium carbonate, magnesium hydroxide, brucite ore, hydromagnesite, Huntite, boehmite or bauxite.

32. (New): The polymer composition of claim 29, wherein the second filler further comprises chalk, talc or glass powder.

33. (New): The polymer composition of claim 29, wherein the proportion of the nano-clay to the second filler is from 90:10 to 10:90 by percent weight

34. (New): The polymer composition of claim 29, wherein the total filler content is from 20% to 80% by weight.

35. (New): The polymer composition of claim 29, wherein the nano-clay comprises smectite.

36. (New): A cable or wire coating formed from a polymer composition according to claim 29.

37. (New): A molded or extruded material coated with a polymer composition according to claim 29.

38. (New): A method of promoting char formation comprising the step of burning the polymer composition according to claim 29.

39. (New): A method of improving the char promoting properties of a polymer composition, comprising: combining a polymer and a synergistic flame retardant additive combination to form a mixture, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of at least one of polyesters, polyethylene, polystyrene, silicones, silicone rubbers, ethyl vinyl acetate and their copolymers, wherein the synergistic flame retardant additive comprises a nano-clay and a second filler, and wherein the second filler comprises aluminum trihydroxide.

40. (New): The method of claim 39, wherein the second filler further comprises a flame retardant filler, an inert filler, or a combination thereof.

41. (New): The method of claim 39, wherein the second filler further comprises magnesium carbonate, magnesium hydroxide, brucite ore, hydromagnesite, Huntite, boehmite or bauxite.

42. (New): The method of claim 39, wherein the second filler further comprises chalk, talc or glass powder.